

Minutes of Land Use, Parks and Environment Committee
Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Chair Jim Heinrich called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Present: Supervisors Jim Heinrich (Chair), Jim Batzko, Walter Kolb, Pamela Meyer, Fritz Ruf, Peter Wolff and Tom Schellinger.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Business Manager Peter Mudek, Register of Deeds Jim Behrend, Enterprise Operations Manager Dave Burch, Budget Management Specialist Linda Witkowski and Journal Sentinel Reporter Laurel Walker.

Future Meeting Dates:

- October 2, 2012 (budget reviews)
- October 16, 2012 (regular business)

Executive Committee Reports of September 10 & 17, 2012

Heinrich summarized the items discussed at the following meetings:

September 10, 2012:

- Overview of 2013-2017 capital plan
- Review of 2013-2017 capital projects plan relative to Parks and Land Use, Federated Library System, Register Of Deeds, Emergency Preparedness, County Clerk, Information Technology, and Public Works
- County Board committee reports by committee chairs

September 17, 2012:

- Continued review of the 2012-2017 capital plan
- Presentation on the Information Technology Project Management Office audit
- Approved three appointments
- County Board committee reports by committee chairs

Approve Minutes of August 21, 2012

MOTION: Ruf moved, second by Batzko, to approve the minutes of August 21, 2012. Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

- Thank you note from the City of Waukesha fire department for hospitality and use of Expo grounds for training
- Letter from Town of Merton Chairman Richard Morris regarding the proposed boat launch on North Lake
- Letter from the State Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection approving the Waukesha County Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan

Future agenda item

- Update on proposed boat launch on North Lake (Ruf)

Legislative Update

Spaeth stated she will be reviewing the Wisconsin state departments' budget requests which were recently submitted to Governor Walker for consideration.

Review and Discuss 2013–2017 Capital Projects Plan

Item 47: Register of Deeds Electronic Record Redaction-Behrend provided an update on this ongoing project which addresses the redaction of social security numbers from real estate records that are available in electronic format on the Internet. The project is totally funded by a \$5 fee per document recorded. Once the project is completed, the fee will be discontinued.

Behrend said there are minor changes to this project. Staff will convert records to electronic formats during slow periods instead of outsourcing the task. New county-owned equipment will be used to convert microfilm to electronic files. These changes are expected to reduce the overall cost of the project.

Review and Discuss 2013–2017 Capital Projects Plan – Items 14, 38-44

Shaver discussed the following projects:

Item 14: Energy Efficiency Improvements-This project is as planned. The project continues the implementation of energy efficient lighting improvements with a high return on investment (ROI) in partnership with the Departments of Parks and Land Use and Public Works.

Ruf asked how much cost savings is anticipated? Shaver stated that as an example, ice arena improvements will achieve a 60% reduction in natural gas use which will provide a very significant savings. Overall LED lighting upgrades have averaged a 1½ year ROI.

Item 38: Orthophotography-This project is done every five years in conjunction with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and other southeastern Wisconsin counties. The aerial photography portion of the project will be done in 2015.

Item 39: Parks Restroom Renovation-This as planned project is in its final two years. The restroom project at Minooka Park is scheduled for construction in 2013. The last restroom project, at Mukwonago Park, is slated for 2014.

Kolb asked whether there is any documentation of how park use has increased following restroom construction. Shaver stated that the shelters rented first and more often are those with the flush toilets. It is an amenity. Park shelters that offer amenities, including electrical outlets and bathrooms, are preferable and see a higher rental preference; however, there is certainly not enough revenue generated to cover the costs.

Batzko asked which park restrooms have already been completed. Shaver stated that Muskego and Menomonee Parks have been completed. Nashotah and Nagawaukee are under construction this year.

Item 40: Menomonee Main Building Demolition-This project is being accelerated to year 2013, mainly because of ongoing maintenance issues and potential vandalism. The old maintenance and recreation buildings and well house will be demolished, and the well will be filled in. One storage building will be kept and used to store park equipment. The demolition contract will contain a recycling component, which saves the County money on the total project cost. The vendor will remove materials and market them, e.g. metal, concrete block, etc., which can divert up to 90-98% of the volume of a demo project from going to landfills.

Item 41: Bikeway Pavement Improvements-Shaver reviewed the history of this project, which included the paving of New Berlin and Lake Country Trails. The final trail corridor is the Bugline Trail which runs from

Menomonee Falls to downtown North Lake. Shaver stated that efforts will be made to accommodate many types of users, including runners, equestrians and snowmobilers who do not favor a paved trail.

Shaver outlined the project scope and description for the Bugline Trail phase of this project. Putting in a 10-foot paved trail will allow for gravel/unpaved sections for snowmobile use and runners. Although the majority of the trail will be quite wide, there are a couple of pinch points because of slope and wetlands. Those areas will make it more difficult to have sufficiently wide space for snowmobile grooming machines or runners' path; however, those areas are few. Bridges will be upgraded from 8-feet to 10-feet to accommodate grooming machines and maintenance vehicles.

Schellinger asked if the scope of the project was extended to accommodate all of the different user groups. Shaver stated no. Typically, as in the Lake Country Trail, there are paved and unpaved components. The paved trail is a 10-foot wide section of asphalt and the unpaved section is a 2-foot wide "shoulder" of crushed stone. Schellinger questioned whether maintenance costs would increase by having to maintain two different types of surface. Shaver said no, not really. The project will reduce the annual maintenance costs of patching and grooming crushed stone surfaces. Asphalt will last for many years with proper seal coating and maintenance.

Shaver addressed concern of some citizens about the County spending money on a trail during difficult economic times. He explained this trail corridor is part of a comprehensive trail plan, adopted by the County Board for years. The County operates like a business and now is a good time to make the investment because of low interest rates and a competitive bidding climate. Kolb pointed out that revenues coming in from taxpayers are also lower – projects should be prioritized. Shaver said the capital plan *is* adjusted accordingly. He maintained that now is the time for the County make investments in its infrastructure.

Batzko stated the paving of the Bugline Trail is a hot issue in Sussex. If the vast majority of people are satisfied with it the way it is, why is money being spent to change it? Meyer pointed out that this is the fifth year of a project in a five-year plan. This project has been in the works for a very long time. Batzko replied that he has been on the Sussex Village Board for the last seven years and this issue has never come up. There was not a lot of public information available until this year – most people were not aware of the plan until it reached the point of no return.

Shaver stated that municipal staff were involved in the planning. In reference to Batzko's comment, Shaver stated that the Village of Sussex park staff were directly involved in providing feedback as to what the Village would like to see in the multiuse trail plan. It is not the County's responsibility to remind municipal staff to inform their elected officials. There is a public hearing on the capital budget every year, numerous public informational meetings are held, and this topic has been covered in the media. There is an ongoing challenge in government and business on how to keep people informed. Waukesha County has reached out to municipalities and major user groups of the trails in an effort to keep the public informed.

Heinrich directed the Committee's attention to the "Analysis of Need" paragraph on page 41 of the capital plan: "The County has received customer requests for improved trail surface and accessibility. Improved surface material and expanded width will reduce user conflicts and enhance the experience for customers. Improved surfacing will allow all-season, year-round use and be compatible with existing and proposed trail connections with local municipalities." Heinrich reiterated Shaver's points about the components of need, i.e. trail connectivity, cost savings in maintenance, etc., and the added benefits to the quality of life in the community as a whole.

After further discussion, Heinrich polled the Committee regarding their position on the Bikeway Pavement Improvements capital project:

- Ruf – **In favor**; the project has been in the works for years; no one complains until the project begins.
- Wolff – **In favor**.
- Schellinger – **In favor**; the trails greatly enhance the community.
- Batzko – **Opposed**; stated he is on the fence, but must vote against the project.
- Meyer – **In favor**; this is the fifth year of a five-year plan; the trails are free for everyone to use – no fees are charged.
- Kolb – **Neutral**; a minority uses and the majority pays; issues with the cost factor versus priority.
- Heinrich – **In favor**

Heinrich thanked the Committee for expressing their thoughtful opinions. Shaver stated that every effort will be made keep citizens informed as decisions are made to accommodate special requests and concerns as this project moves forward.

Item 42: Pavement Management Plan-This as planned project is for maintaining asphalt and concrete on County properties in cooperation with the Department of Public Works. A comprehensive system wide analysis will take place in 2013. Anticipated projects may be adjusted due to project coordination efficiencies, accelerated deterioration or the PAVER analysis results. The major project funded in 2014 and 2015 is the Expo Center parking lot. Shaver added that due to the favorable bidding climate over the last 2 years, more work was done than initially planned within the budget.

Item 43: Eble Ice Arena Roof Replacement-This is a new project. The roof is original from the time the building was constructed in 1988. The roof's rubber membrane is beginning to pull away from the parapets adjacent to the flat roof. Shaver recommended forgoing maintenance costs and replacing the 24-year-old roof. The project will be funded 50/50 from ice arena fund balance and general fund balance.

Wolff left at 9:55 a.m.

Item 44: Wanaki Golf Course Bridge Replacement-The current bridges were constructed in the early 1970s. A bridge evaluation done in 2012 identified structural failures and the need for replacement. This new project proposes to reduce the number of bridges from six to three to maintain golf course playability while reducing on-going structure maintenance costs. The new bridges will reduce flooding and the number of days the course is closed to carts, resulting in increased revenues.

MOTION: Ruf moved, second by Batzko to adjourn at 10:01 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Meyer
Secretary